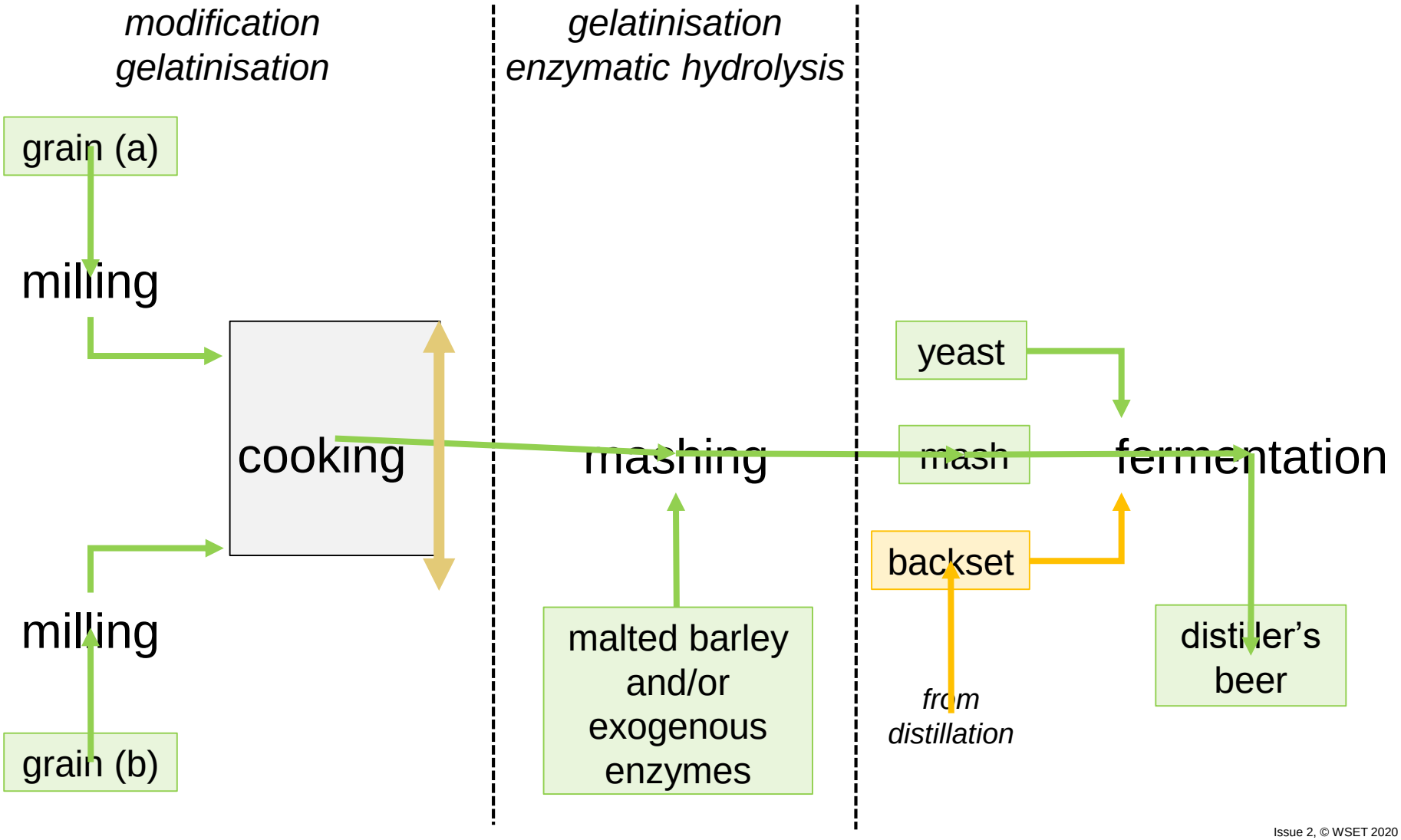
Whiskey in the USA

Cooking, mashing & fermentation



Yeast

Requirements

nutrients

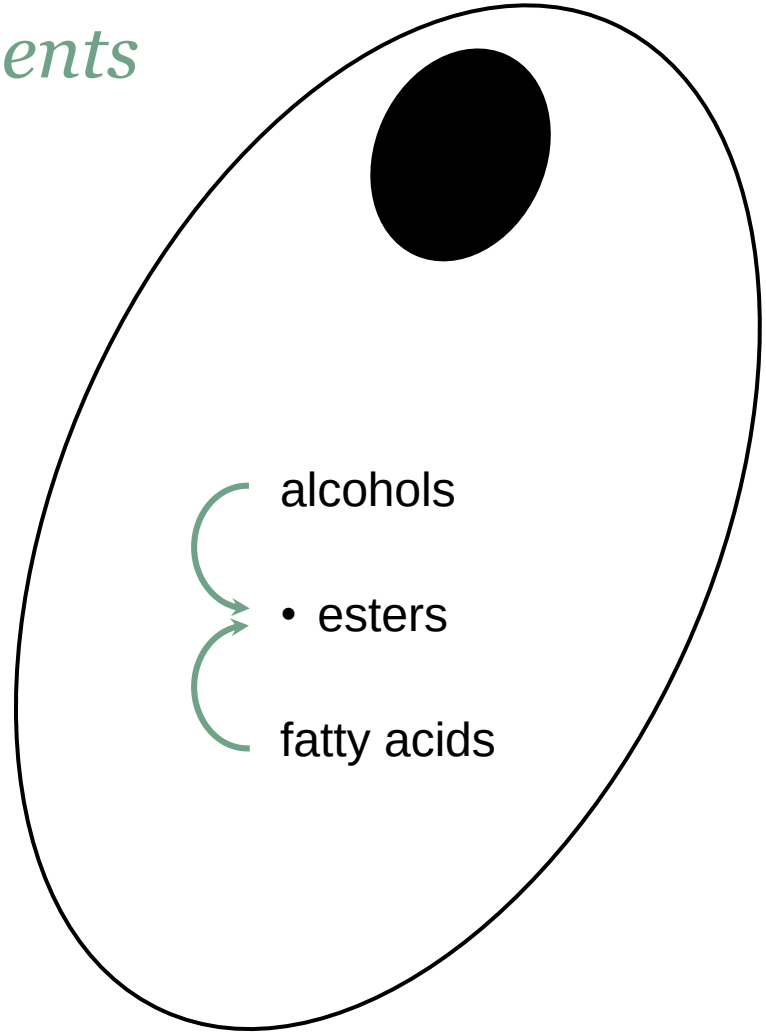
- sugar
- nitrogen

environment

- acidic
- warmth

Types

cultured
ambient



Outputs

sugar metabolism

- ethanol
- CO_2
- heat

other

- methanol
- fusel alcohols
- fatty acids
- esters
- sulfur compounds

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Mash bills and recipes

Mash bill, grains

- corn (Bourbon min. 51%)
- rye (rye whiskey min. 51%)
- wheat
- malted barley (exogenous enzymes permitted)
- speciality grains

Recipe

- mash bill + yeast strain = recipe

Distillation

Bourbon, rye and Tennessee

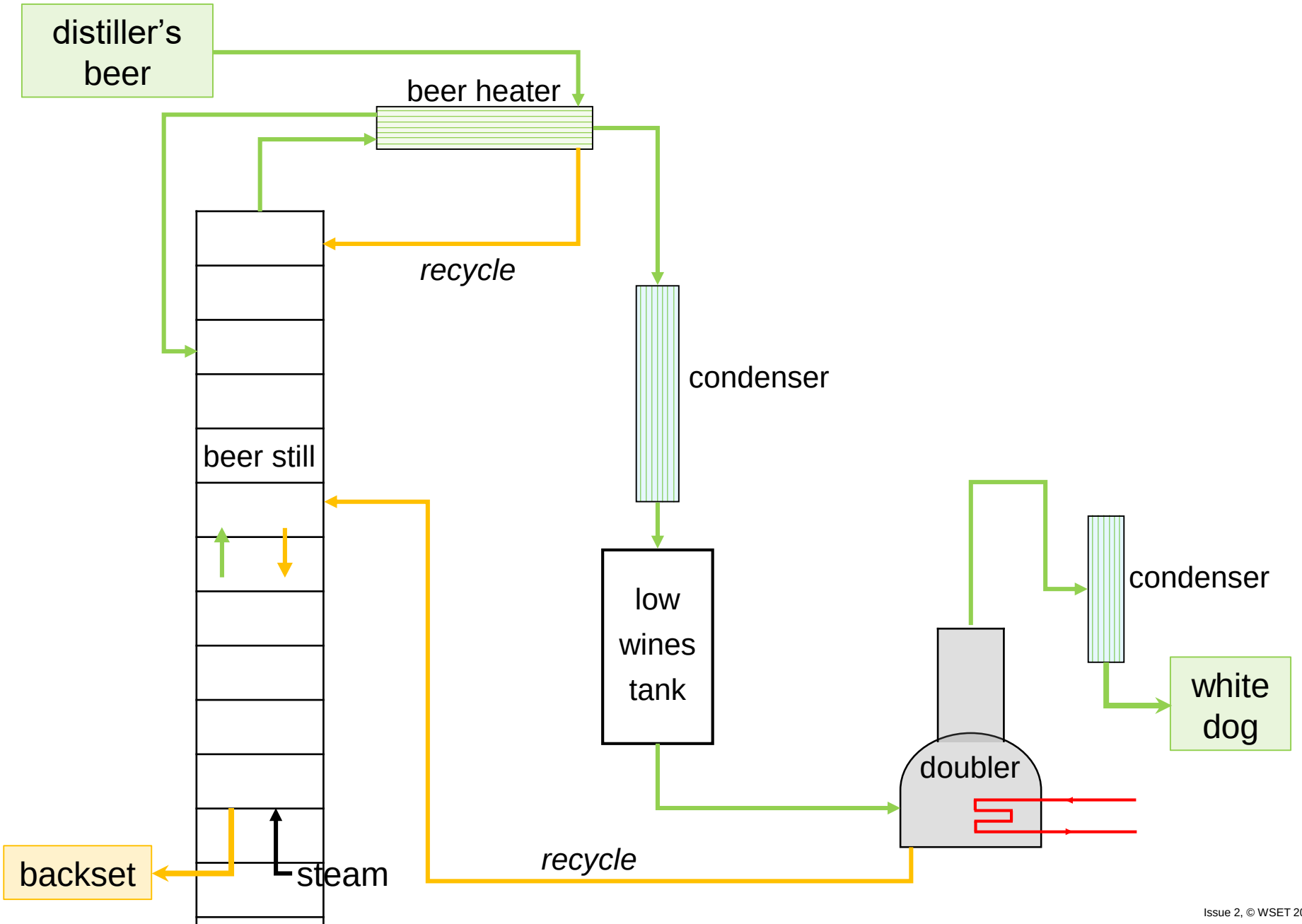
Distillation strength

- max 160° proof
- typically considerably lower

Types of still

- beer still + doubler
- beer still + thumper
- pot stills (rare for macros)

Beer still & doubler



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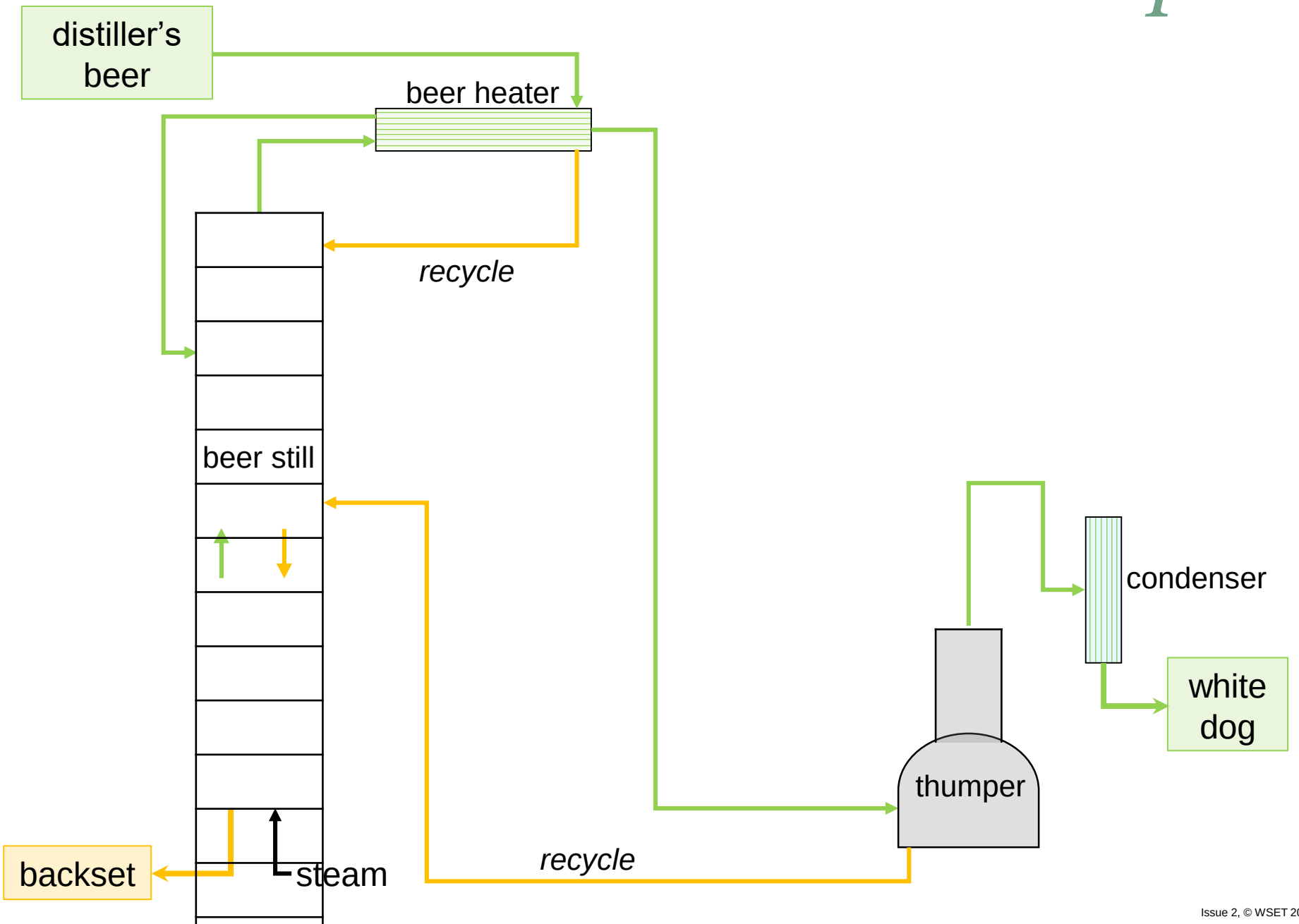
Beer still & thumper



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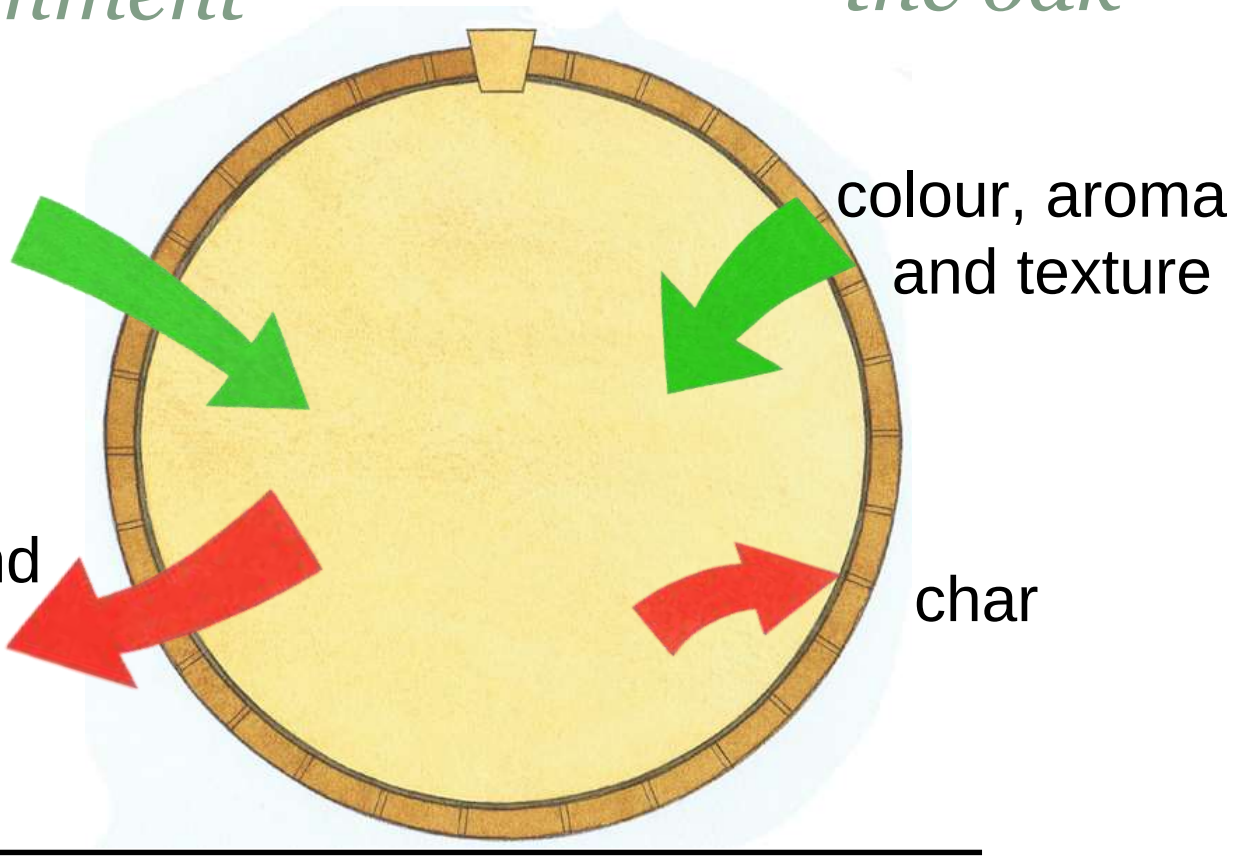
Key functions of oak vessels

Interaction with the environment

Interaction with the oak



Post-distillation

Bourbon, rye and Tennessee

Vessel

- new charred oak

Other considerations

- max barrel entry 125° proof
- no minimum age requirements
- no stipulation on barrel size
- oak alternatives (staves, cubes, chips)

Lincoln County Process

- Tennessee whiskey only

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Post-distillation

Bourbon, rye and Tennessee

Warehousing consideration

- location of warehouse
- position of barrels in warehouse
- time

Blending

Final steps

- chill-filtration
- permitted additions
  - dilution, min 80° proof (barrel strength)
  - caramel colour not permitted for straight whiskies or any Bourbon

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American whiskies

the law and labelling terminology

Type	Key grain at least..	Max distillation strength	Max barrel entry	Type of barrel/vessel
Bourbon	51% corn	160°	125°	new charred oak
Rye	51% rye	160°	125°	new charred oak
Wheat	51% wheat	160°	125	new charred oak
Malt	51% malt	160°	125°	new charred oak
Corn	80% corn	160°	125°	inert used oak uncharred new oak

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American whiskies

the law and labelling terminology

- Tennessee whiskey
- Kentucky
- straight
- bottled in bond
- age statements
- small batch
- single barrel

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